

Dear State CSBG Administrators,

Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Joseph I. Lieberman (I – CT) will unveil a long-awaited climate change bill on May 12th, without the participation of their former partner, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who had been the measure's only Republican supporter. Graham pulled out of the climate talks two days before the originally scheduled April 26th bill unveiling over anger at reports that Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) planned to bring immigration legislation to the Senate floor ahead of the climate bill.

Without Graham's support, it seems unlikely the bill could gain enough traction to advance. It would need at least a handful of Republican backers in order to achieve 60 votes, and no one in the GOP shows any sign of filling the void left by Graham. What's more, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has further complicated prospects for the bill, which includes provisions on offshore drilling in order to entice Republican support. But that delicate balance has been disrupted as liberal coastal Democrats have quickly closed ranks against any new drilling. (*Source: Congressional Quarterly*)

We will keep you informed as things progress.